

Message Text

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PAGE 01 REYKJA 00190 311018Z

46

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAM-01 CU-04 OMB-01 ACDA-19 EB-11 COME-00

DRC-01 /140 W

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R 301405Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4297

INFO COMICEDEFOR

CINCLANT

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR MARR IC

SUBJECT: IDF RETENTION ISSUE: NEWSPAPER STORY ON NEW BASE
TV EQUIPMENT

1. SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC NEWSPAPER ALTHYDUBLADID PUBLISHED
FOLLOWING STORY ON BASE TV JANUARY 29:

QUOTE: KEFLAVIK TELEVISION IN COLOR IN JUNE THIS YEAR.

IT HAS BEEN DECIDED THAT THE BASE TELEVISION STATION WILL BEGIN
BROADCASTING IN COLOR IN JUNE THIS YEAR. ALL OF THE NECESSARY
EQUIPMENT HAS ARRIVED IN THE COUNTRY AND TRAINING IS PRESENTLY
GOING FORWARD FOR STAFF MEMBERS OF THE STATION INCLUDING THREE
ICELANDIC TECHNICIANS WHO WILL BE GOING TO THE UNITED STATES TO
LEARN ALL ABOUT THIS NEW TV. UNQUOTE.

2. IN THE ALTHING JANUARY 29, PEOPLE'S ALLIANCE MEMBER JONAS
ARNASON ASKED MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE MAGNUS TORFI
OLAFSSON WHETHER KEFLAVIK AUTHORITIES "HAVE THE FREEDOM TO TAKE
ACTIONS WHICH VIOLATE ICELANDIC LAW AND WHETHER THEY ARE EXEMPT
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PAGE 02 REYKJA 00190 311018Z

FROM ASKING ICELANDIC AUTHORITIES BEFORE MAKING PREPARATIONS FOR

COLOR BROADCASTING AT KEFLAVIK OR WERE THOSE ACTIONS BEING TAKEN WITH THE CONSENT OF THE MINISTER". OLAFSSON REPLIED THAT HE HAD NOT HEARD OF THE MATTER UNTIL THE NEWS ARTICLE AND "THE ONLY THING I CAN SAY IS THAT THIS MUST NOT BE TOLERATED AND WILL NOT BE TOLERATED".

3. FACTS OF CASE ARE THAT NEW EQUIPMENT IS ON REQUISITION WHICH WILL BE COLOR COMPATIBLE BUT PLANS ARE TO CONTINUE BROADCASTING IN BLACK AND WHITE, NOT COLOR, WITH SAME SIGNAL STRENGTH AS AT PRESENT. NO PROJECTED DELIVERY OR INSTALLATION TIME YET KNOWN. ICELANDIC TECHNICIANS ARE AWARE THEY WOULD BE SENT TO US FOR TRAINING BUT HAVE NOT BEEN INFORMED OF ANY SCHEDULE.

4. IT IS UNFORTUNATE THAT STORY OF THIS TYPE APPEARED AT THIS DELICATE PSYCHOLOGICAL POINT IN DOMESTIC ICELANDIC DISPUTES OVER RENEGOTIATION OF BASE AGREEMENT. EMBASSY AND IDF WILL DO WHATEVER POSSIBLE TO AVOID CONTROVERSY AND, IF QUESTIONS ARE RAISED, WILL TRY TO MINIMIZE LOCAL IMPACT. IRVING

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 30 JAN 1974
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30 JUN 2005

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